A REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE BRITISH NATION.

Tuesday, August 29. 1710.

I Am come now to the true High-Flying Question, in which I know, there is a Snare laid for the Author of this Paper —— And I willingly go into the Trap, let them make their most of it —— The Question is put many Ways to me, and by many People, that impatiently expect what I will say to it: *The Enquiry is this.*

What if the present Ministry do not turn Whigs? *What if you should be mistaken, we see no such Necessity of it, as you pretend?— And we hope they are honester Men.*

I have explain'd what I mean, by the Word *Whig*, so directly, that I fear no Misconstruction, that the D——l and his Friends the *High-Flyers* of this Age, can put upon it.

I know you abhor the Name *Whig*; I know you think you are too safe, to apprehend the Danger of it—— I took off before, the common Acceptation of the Word *Whig*; I told you I did not say or mean, they should turn *Presbyterians*, or *Dissenters*; *No, no*, that would have frighted you all, and I know you had rather they should turn *Jews*, or *Mahometans*, or any thing —— Nor did I say they shall *turn*, I hate *turning* sides, never did *turn* in my Life, nor can I ever heartily trust a Man *that does*.

But

But what do you mean by this Mad Question? —— I tell you, as in my last, take their being *Whigs*, in the Sence I have explain'd my self —— And I see no Reason to be afraid to speak it,

They must be WHIGS or TRAITORS.

Will any Man ask me whether this, or any Ministry the Queen shall set up, shall be *Whigs*? —— I shall ask him then —— Will they support the Queeen? Will they fight against the Pretender? Will they Maintain the Protestant Succession? Will they keep Sacred the Union? If they do not these, what is the contrary? They betray their Royal Mistress, they recognize an Usurping Invader, they break the Faith of the Nation, and they let in *French* Tyranny upon our Liberties —— Shall not such as these be esteem'd Traytors?

I make no doubt but the Joy that Thousands take, in the late Change of the Ministry in *England*, is in expectation, that these Things tend all to the Restoration of the Abdicated Race of King *James* —— Let them not feed themselves with such remote and prepposterous Notions; it may be in the Design, *and no Question but it is*; but till they can tell us, that her Majesty is prevail'd with to Demit and Resign, to give up her Royal Dignity, and to bring in her Mortal Enemy; till they can say the Queen is in the Project, they cannot suggest, the Ministry can serve that Cause, without being Traytors; and let them Charge the Queen with it, when they please.

Now to Compliment them *less* than any Body perhaps expects, be it, *if ye will have it so*, that it was in their Design —— Allow, *for Argument Sake*, that they were all privately sworn to the Pretender, that they were the Traytors I am speaking of —— They may secretly indeed, serve that Interest, and in Time might bring a Betray'd Nation, into great Extremities; but *every publick Act* must be just the Reverse —— *As Ministers of State*, they must Act directly contrary; they must raise Funds, employ Armies, fit out Navies, join with, and support a Protestant Alliance, fight the *French King*, fire their Guns, and rejoyce for Victories over him; Propagate all the Laws here, to expel the Pretender, and extinguish the Hopes of his Party.

The first Step they take *qua Ministers*, against these Things, they fly in the Face of the Queen, betray her to the Pretender, and turn Traytors to God, and their Country.

Either I am in the right, *or* I am in the wrong; if I am in the *wrong*, let the Case be Debated —— If I am *right*, then let private Trick and Plot go what length we cannot help —— Yet in spight of High-Flying hopes, I am in no fear for the Constitution —— Let who will come into the Administration —— The Queen cannot be Consistent with the Pretender; the Interests *cannot* join there —— Revolution Principles must be the Foundation, *we can stand upon no other*, their own Acts and Deeds will fly in their Faces, when ever the Attempt is made —— The Claim of Right, and the Settlement of the Crown in Parliament, will be a *Burthensome Stone* —— The Projects of the High-Party must sink under the Weight of it —— And nothing but Revolution Shoulders can carry it.

And this makes our Addressers, when they talk of the Queen's *Hereditary-Right*, and the Doctrine of *Non-Resistance*, talk so Ambiguously, so Inconsistently, and I had almost said, so much Nonsense —— That even in the very Words of their Addresses, they Contradict themselves —— Even our late *L——n* Clergy, at the same time that they talk of the Queens *Irresistible Power*, a Word they would be loth to have too Critically Examin'd, *in the very same Breath*, they tell her Majesty of their having themselves Individually and Identically, Vigorously and successfully withstood —— *I think that is Resisted* her Majesty's Royal Father —— And they put it right; they do not say the Word KING, that they *Resisted* or withstood *their King*, but they

Vigorously

Vigorously and *Successfully* withstood *Popery*, and *Arbitrary Power*, when it was breaking in upon them —— And in whose Hand was this Power? Was it in any Body's Hand but the King's? Did they withstand any Body but the King? Nay, and they say plainly they shall do so again

This is such a plain Acknowledgment, even from the Reverend Fathers of the Church, that *Arbitrary Power* is to be *Resisted*, that we need never Enquire any more about it —— And as this is all we want, and the Clergy have own'd the Thing, *for my part* I will never stand with them for Words, and Out-sides; they shall call it what they will, they shall call *withstanding* King *James*, *Non-Resistance*, if they please, and I'll call it so too —— What can it signifie what we call it, as long as we agree in the Thing, and own the Substance?

And this made me propose in my last, a Union of the *Terms*; it is evident we are United in the Meaning already —— It's strange we cannot agree in the Form —— Two Painters severally Painted a Figure, the Form was exactly alike, one the Copy of the other; the same Face, Jaws, Teeth, Claws, Legs, and every Way alike in Shape —— But the Workmen fell out about what they should call it; One said it was a *Bear*, the other said no, it was a *Lyon* —— Why says the latter, I am sure mine is a *Lion*, and you say yours is exactly the same Creature —— No matter for that, says the t'other, mine shall be a *Bear*, and I will have it call'd a *Bear* —— At last they agreed it would be something new to the World, and make their Pictures be the more look'd at, and perhaps sell the better — if they put both the Names together, and so they call'd it a *Bear-Lyon*.

Gentlemen, we all agree, *you see*, that the Revolution was just, and *withstanding Arbitrary Power*, is just —— And yet we are not for Resisting our Sovereigns, neither —— Come, let us agree, and join the Terms, since the Things are the same —— And let us call it *Revolution-Non-Resistance*; this we are all for, this I hope no Body will be against.

Whoever suggested that it was Lawful to Resist the Queen; the Case is clear, her Majesty cannot be Resisted; the Laws are her Rule, her Government is founded upon Indisputable Right, her Title is Clear, and her Administration Just, Legal, and Unexceptionable; the Laws stand open for every Subject —— The injur'd Man may Complain, and must be Redress'd —— To *Resist* such a a Government, is to *Resist the Ordinance of God, and they that Resist, will receive to themselves Damnation* —— But what is all this to *Resisting Arbitrary Power*? If the next King or Queen that shall Reign over us — Dispenses with the Laws, raises Money without consent of Parliament, Imprisons the Subject without *Habeas Corpus*, Executes without Tryal, Confiscates without Sentence, Fines *Ultra Tenementum*, keeps up a Standing Army in Time of Peace, without consent of Parliament; brings in *Popish* into the House of Lords, and in short, sets up Absolute Will, and *Arbitrary Power* —— Shall we not withstand him; you see the very Clergy will do it *Vigorously*, and have already done it *successfully*; See the Address of the *London* Clergy, Printed in the *Gazette* of *August*, 25*th*.

Now this being the Genuine Explication of the Words, and both sides meaning the same Thing, I beseech you, Gentlemen, let us *differ no more*; the Thing is agreed, and both Parties may safely come into it, that as to Government, and Obedience, *Revolution-Non Resistance* is the Word; there is the *Measure* of our *Submission* —— And so the Quarrel is at an End.

Now the *London* Clergy have gone farther in their Address, *viz*. They tell her Majesty, they are perswaded THIS is the *unanimous Sense and Resolution of the Clergy of the whole Kingdom* —— THIS, *Pray what?* Mark the Connection —— The Words that go before, explain it; THIS,

viz. That they have Vigorously, and Successfully withstood Arbitrary Power, formerly, *viz. when their King Practised it*; and they shall not fail to manifest an equal Zeal against them, when ever, and by what Means soever, they shall meditate a Return.

If this is not engaging to Resist——— And to Resist Sovereigns, I know not what the Words ——*When ever*, and *by what means soever* can signifie; wherefore the Reverend Gentlemen of the Clergy must excuse me, if I enter a little farther into an Enquiry, after the true meaning of these Words, in my next; not doubting, but this happy Address is Calculated, to make us all Friends again, in the Case; that all Debates about Resistance and Non-Resistance, withstanding Arbitrary Power, and not withstanding it, may be reconciled, and as we all understand the same thing, so we may learn to Express our selves the same Way, and this Contention about nothing, may come to an End.

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